

How did the Oblates of Mary Immaculate influenced our lives

Since moving to Melville, SK, in 1957 with my husband Bill, and 16 month old son David, we enrolled at St. Henry's Parish as parishioners.

Through the years we've had many wonderful Oblate Fathers serving the parish.

They all had one goal – to deepen our spiritual life.

Our church is always open and welcoming.

We have special devotions in May and October honoring our Blessed Mother and also Devotions every First Friday of the Month.

When I talk to my brothers and sisters in other parishes, they say: "we don't do that"; well, it's because their parish priests aren't Oblates.

Our priests are truly missionaries, constantly encouraging to do better or more.

The children are encouraged to participate as altar servers or do special readings; a lot of them are shy and need some coaxing. Our priests are very involved with our Catholic Schools. There is a school Mass once a month, when the children's choir sings and students also take part in ministries at Mass.

At St. Peter's Hospital, Mass is celebrated every Wednesday morning for patients and visitors, with residents from St. Paul's Nursing Home coming as well.

Once a year we gather at the cemetery to pray, sing hymns and pay respect to our loved once buried there, while father blesses the graves.

Every year we also have a polka Mass, which is enjoyed by people of all denominations. The music is great and the church is full.

We have a beautiful grotto behind the church, where we gather in the summer time to recite the Rosary, sing a couple of hymns and receive a blessing for the sick.

In 2016, we will be celebrating 110 years of the service of the Oblates at our parish. Everyone is excited about that. As the Oblates celebrate their 200 Anniversary we wish them God's blessings.

Submitted by Sarah Banow

Member of St. Henry's Rosary Sodality for 50 years